

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Kevin Kerstein
Publicity Manager
Churchill Downs Racetrack
(610) 420-6971 (mobile)
(502) 635-4712 (office)
Kevin.Kerstein@KyDerby.com

FORSTER HOPES TO CONTINUE SUCCESS WITH PIRATE'S PUNCH IN BREEDERS' CUP

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Sunday, Oct. 25, 2020) – Nestled five miles from Churchill Downs, trainer **Grant Forster** is eagerly preparing for the biggest race of his career at Trackside Louisville where **Gulliver Racing**, **Craig Drager** and **Dan Legan's** five-time winner **Pirate's Punch** will tackle a likely full field of competitors in the \$1 million Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (Grade I) on Nov. 7 at Keeneland.

"Sort of like every horse trainer, I'm just holding my breath until we get there," Forster said. "It's been a great ride so far with this horse and the (Dirt Mile) is shaping up to be a really competitive. It'll be a tough field but we're glad to be in it."

Pirate's Punch had a unique two-race stand over the summer when Forster shipped the Shanghai Bobby gelding to Monmouth Park to compete in the \$200,000 Philip Iselin Stakes (GIII) and one month later returned for the \$155,000 Salvator Mile (GIII). In the Philip Iselin, the gutsy Pirate's Punch finished a half-length in front of **Warrior's Charge** but was subsequently disqualified and placed second following a stewards' inquiry and objection lodged by the runner-up finisher's jockey **Paco Lopez**.

Forster would return to Monmouth for redemption in the Salvator Mile where Pirate's Punch scored a convincing two-length score and sealed his likely starting gate position in the Dirt Mile.

In the Breeders' Cup, East Coast-based jockey **Jorge Vargas Jr.**, who rode Pirate's Punch in each of his two starts at Monmouth, will ship to Kentucky to ride in the Breeders' Cup. The 26-year-old Vargas, whose grandfather and father both trained horses in his native Puerto Rico, is named to ride **Shimmering (IRE)** for trainer **Graham Motion** on Wednesday at Churchill Downs.

"He's rode Pirate's Punch perfectly in his last two starts, so why not continue to use him for the Breeders' Cup," Forster said. "He's coming to Kentucky early and hopes to ride a few at Churchill before the Breeders' Cup."

Starting on Friday, there will be a special training period from 7:30-7:45 a.m. for Breeders' Cup contenders. The special training session is scheduled to run through Wednesday, Nov. 4.

MORE THAN 30 LOCAL BREEDERS' CUP CONTENDERS SET TO CONVERGE ON KEENELAND – There are at least 33 locally-based Breeders' Cup contenders that will attempt season-ending glory in the Nov. 6-7 World Championships at Keeneland Racecourse.

Below is the full list of horses based at Churchill Downs who are likely to compete in the Breeders' Cup:

| Horse | Trainer | Last Workout (Distance, Time) | Breeders' Cup Race |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Abarta | Brad Cox | Four Furlongs, :48.40 | Juvenile Turf |
| Arklow | Brad Cox | Five Furlongs, :59.60 | Turf |
| Art Collector | Tommy Drury | Four Furlongs, :47 | Dirt Mile |
| Aunt Pearl | Brad Cox | Five Furlongs, 1:00.80 | Juvenile Fillies Turf |
| Beau Recall | Brad Cox | Five Furlongs, :50.60 | Mile |
| Bell's the One | Neil Pessin | Five Furlongs, 1:00.40 | Filly & Mare Sprint |
| By My Standards | Bret Calhoun | Five Furlongs, :58.60 | Classic |
| Casa Creed | Bill Mott | Four Furlongs, :49 | Mile |
| Crazy Beautiful | Kenny McPeck | Four Furlongs, :48 | Juvenile Fillies |
| Emro | Brad Cox | Five Furlongs, 1:00.80 | Juvenile Fillies Turf |
| Essential Quality | Brad Cox | Six Furlongs, 1:13 | Juvenile |
| Factor This | Brad Cox | Five Furlongs, 1:02 | Mile |
| Girl Daddy | Dale Romans | Five Furlongs, 1:01 | Juvenile Fillies |
| Global Campaign | Stan Hough | Four Furlongs, :48 | Classic |
| Got Stormy | Mark Casse | Four Furlongs, :47.20 | Turf Sprint |
| Hog Creek Hustle | Vickie Foley | Four Furlongs, :49 | Sprint/Dirt Mile |

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| Horse | Trainer | Last Workout (Distance, Time) | Breeders' Cup Race |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Just Might | Michelle Lovell | Five Furlongs, 1:00.60 | Turf Sprint |
| Knicks Go | Brad Cox | Five Furlongs, 1:00.20 | Dirt Mile |
| Monomoy Girl | Brad Cox | Six Furlongs, 1:12.80 | Distaff |
| Mr Money | Bret Calhoun | Five Furlongs, :58.80 | Dirt Mile |
| Pirate's Punch | Grant Forster | Four Furlongs, :47.40 | Dirt Mile |
| Sally's Curlin | Dale Romans | Five Furlongs, 1:01.40 | Filly & Mare Sprint |
| Sconsin | Greg Foley | Five Furlongs, 1:01.60 | Filly & Mare Sprint |
| Serengeti Empress | Tom Amoss | Four Furlongs, :47.80 | Filly & Mare Sprint |
| Silver Dust | Bret Calhoun | Five Furlongs, 1:00.20 | Dirt Mile |
| Simply Ravishing | Kenny McPeck | Four Furlongs, :48 | Juvenile Fillies |
| Sittin On Go | Dale Romans | Five Furlongs, 1:00.40 | Juvenile |
| Smiley Sobotka | Dale Romans | Four Furlongs, :48 | Juvenile |
| Spanish Loveaffair | Mark Casse | Five Furlongs, 1:04.20 | Juvenile Fillies Turf |
| Swiss Skydiver | Kenny McPeck | Four Furlongs, :47.80 | Distaff/Classic |
| Tom's d'Etat | Al Stall Jr. | Six Furlongs, 1:12.80 | Classic |
| War of Will | Mark Casse | Five Furlongs, :59.80 | Dirt Mile |
| Whitmore | Ron Moquett | Four Furlongs, :46.80 | Sprint |

TV SCHEDULE – Racing at Churchill Downs will continue Wednesday-Sunday with daily first post at 1 p.m. Below is next week's TV schedule on the Fox Sports family of networks:

Wednesday: FS2 (12:30-6 p.m.) | MSG+ (1-6 p.m.)
Thursday: FS2 (12:30-6 p.m.) | MSG+ (12:30-6 p.m.)
Friday: FS2 (12:30-6 p.m.) | MSG+ (12:30-6 p.m.)
Saturday: FS2 (12-6 p.m.) | MSG+ (12-6 p.m.)
Sunday: FS2 (12-6 p.m.) | MSG+ (12:30-6 p.m.)

DOWN THE STRETCH – Trainer **Tom Amoss** reported that 2019 Kentucky Oaks (GI) winner **Serengeti Empress** would ship to Keeneland next week for her final work before the Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint (GI). ... For more information and to purchase tickets for the Fall Meet, visit www.churchilldowns.com

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